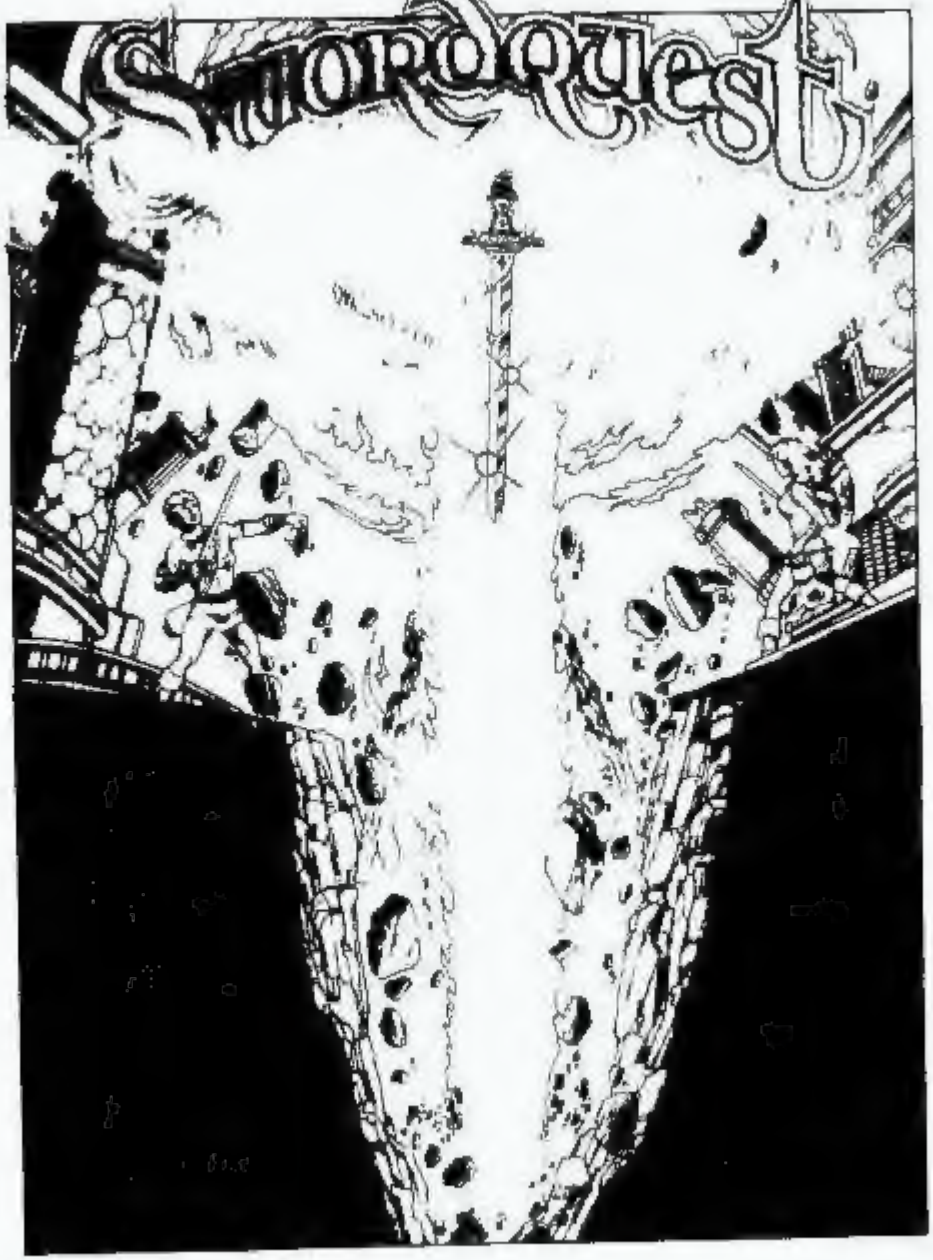

Swordquest

SO LITERALLY, BROTHER AND SISTER HAVE PLUNGED HEADLONG AFTER IT!*#
OUR GHOSTLY ANCESTORS CHALLENGED US TO ENTER THE SECOND WORLD THAT LIES BELOW--TO CLAIM BOTH THE SWORD AND OUR OWN DESTINIES!
WELL, WE'VE COME THIS FAR--AND BY THE GODS, WE WON'T STOP NOW!
*AS SEEN IN OUR COMPANION VOLUME "EARTHWORLD!"--SOLD WITH GAME ONE OF "SWORDQUEST."

THUS DOES ONE ENDING BECOME A SECOND BEGINNING.
AND IN HIS CASTLE KEEP HIGH ABOVE, THE MALEVOLENT WIZARD NEKHLARD SMILES.
IGOR, YOU MAY THINK I'M MAD, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT A CHILL JUST RAN DOWN MY SPINE--
--AS IF, BONEHOW, WE WERE BEING WATCHED!
IT IS A SMILE WITHOUT HUMOR...A SMILE LIKE THE GRIN OF DEATH...
BOOK TWO
FireWorld!

...YET A SMILE THAT SWIFTLY FADED, WHEN--
WELL, KONJURO? HAVE YOU LOCATED THOSE TWO THIEVING WHELPS YET?
OF COURSE, MY LORD TYRANNUS. THE POWERS OF KONJURO ARE NOT LONG MOCKED...BY ANYONE.
O THAT WRY COMMENT WAS MEANT FOR YOUR EARS, WIZARD, BEST KEEP A CIVIL TONGUE IN YOUR HEAD.
WHERE ARE THEY? HAS YOUR DEMON PARTISCHED THEM YET?
ALAS, THEY ARE BEYOND THE REACH OF MY POWERS... FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST...
...IN THE PLACE CALLED FIREWORLD, WHICH LIES FAR BENEATH OUR VERY FEET!
AND IS IT AS YOU SAID?
ARE THEY INDEED THE BOLD-HEARTED ONES WHO, 'TWAS PROPHESIED, WILL CLAIM MY VERY THRONE, WITH "A SWORD'S SUNDER BRIGHTLY AS SUNDER'D SUN!"?
AS YOU CLAIMED THEIR PARENTS LIVED... AYE, MY KING.
BUT HOW CAN THEY HAVE BELIEVED ME ALL THESE YEARS--SO THAT I THOUGHT THEM DEAD FROM INFANCY?
AFTER YOU SLEW THEIR FATHER, THEIR MOTHER LEAPED TO HER WATERY DEATH HOLDING TWO SWADDLED BABES...
NOT HER NEW-BORN TWINS AS WE THEN IMAGINED.
I HAVE PIERCED THE FUTURE'S VEIL JUST ENOUGH TO LEARN THAT, AND A BIT MORE...

"...FOR MANY THEY STOLE NEAR MY TOWER THIS NIGHT, INTENT ON ROBBING ME, THEIR THOUGHTS OF VENGEANCE WERE STRONG...
"...SO STRONG THAT THEY HOVERED WRITHING LIKE IN THE AIR, LONG ENOUGH FOR MY SPELL TO GATHER AND READ THEM, LIKE SO MANY TEA-LEAVES.
"THEY WERE THINKING OF THEIR WARRIOR-FATHER'S DEATH AT YOUR HANDS, AND OF THEIR OWN ORPHANING WHEN THEIR MOTHER SACRIFICED HERSELF FOR THEM...
...AS WELL AS OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS WHICH FOLLOWED."
YOUNG TOWER GROWS STRAIGHT AND TALL, EH?
NO TALLER THAN TAMORA, HUSBAND.
THEY'RE TWINS, AFTER ALL.
WHY AS SO OUT AND PLAY NOW, PELICIA?
AH, IF ONLY YOU COULD, CHILD!
BUT NO ONE DARES WALK ABROAD IN THE SHADOW OF DARKSPIRE CASTLE, AFTER THE AVENT-BELL HAS SOUNDED, AND--
BONG BONG
LISTEN! IT TOLLS--AND ALL MUST OBEY THE CURFEW, THIS NIGHT AS EVERY NIGHT FOR FIVE YEARS NOW--!

"AND WE KNOW FULL WELL WHY FOREARM AND SLAVE ALIKE WERE FORCED TO HIDE THEIR FEARFUL HEADS INDOORS FROM DUSK TO DAWN, DO WE NOT, TYRANNUS?
"TO FORESTALL POSSIBLE REBELLION AGAINST YOUR RULE, YOU HAVE ME UNLEASH TWO SWORD-WIELDING NETHER DEMONS EACH DAY AS THE SUN DIED BURNING IN THE WEST...
"...DEMONS WHO COULD NOT BE PERCEIVED BY HUMAN EYE...
"...YET WHO APPEARED TO THE CAVORTING POPULACE AS A SINISTER MIST WHICH SWIRLED ITS WAY THROUGH EVERY ALLEYWAY OF THE CITY BELOW...

...BRINGING A HORRIBLE DEATH TO ALL WHO COULD NOT REACH HOME AND HEARTH IN TIME!

"WOULD, WITHIN ONE OF THOSE NOVELS..."
IF ONLY WE DARED REVEAL THEIR TRUE SELVES, HELECIA --INSTEAD OF HIDING THEIR GOLDEN LOCKS BENEATH THAT CRUDE, DARK DYE--
THEY'RE OUR CHILDREN, GARTH--NOT MINDLESS LIKE THEIR GODS.
--THE PEOPLE MUST RISE AGAINST TYRANNUS, AND BRING HIM DOWN!"
WOULD YOU KILL THEIR DEATH-WARRANTS?

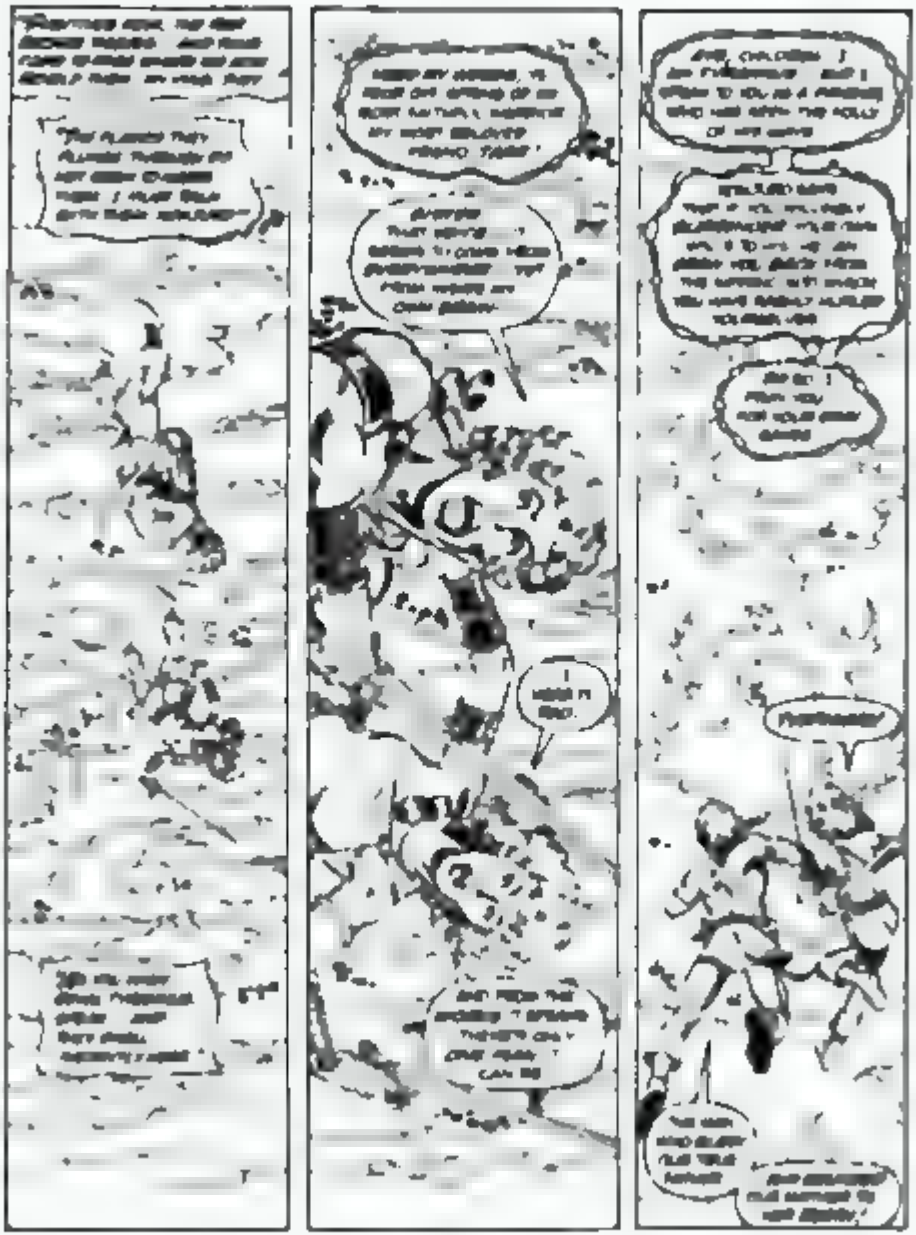
AND SO, UNKNOWING, YOU HAVE RETURNED FOR HIM A SCORE OF YEARS, THINKING YOURSELF SAFE FROM THE PROPHECY REVEALED TO ME IN A MAGICAL TRANCE...
"...BOTHA LIES A HELMETED BOY AMONG YOUR GUIDEKING AVALDEYN.

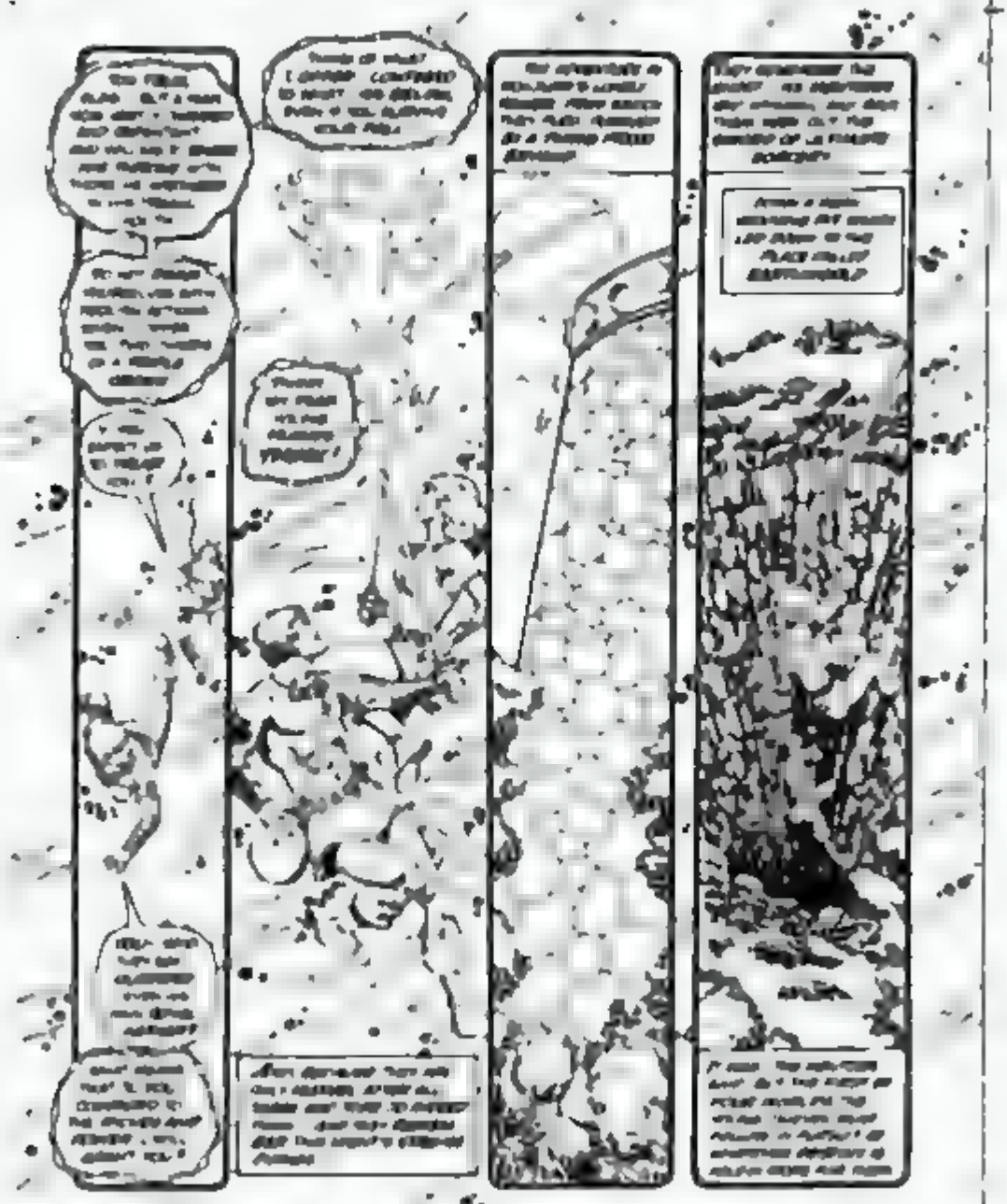
"HOW OFTEN YOU MUST HAVE PASSED CLOSE BY THOSE TWO DARK-HAIRED BOOTH AS THEY BARON UP...
"...CONSIDERING THEM BENEATH YOUR ROYAL NOTICE.

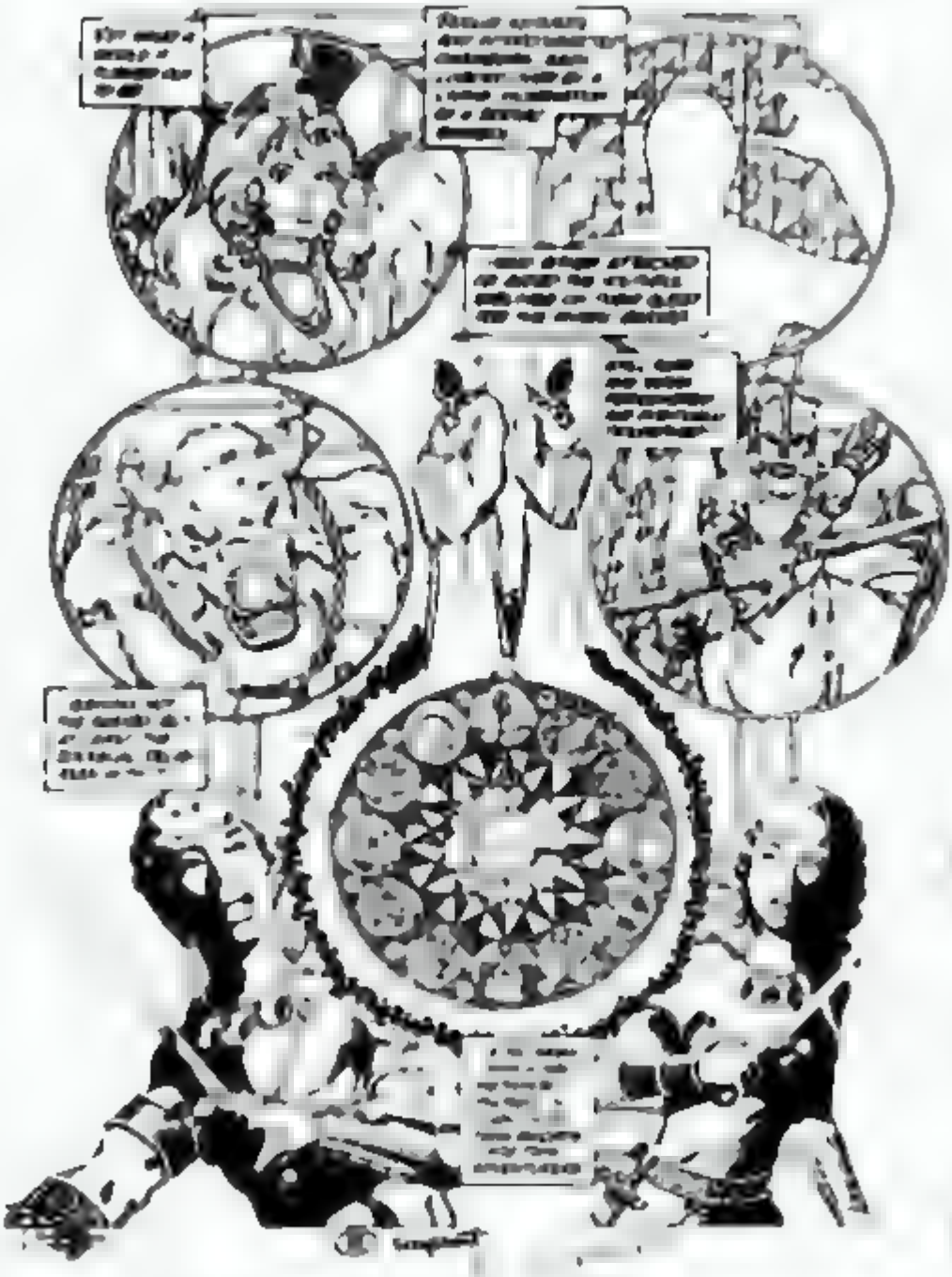
"...BUT STILL, HAVING NEVER KNOWN THEIR REAL PARENTS, THEY DID NOT HATE.
"WHEN THEY HEARD OF AN ARK TO UNDERSTAND BLACK TRIBES, THEY WERE SOLD OF THEIR TRUE HISTORIES...
"...THEY NAMELY MOURNED AT THE HOMELY SCENES THEIR FORCED PARENTS MET FOR THEIR, TILL ONE DAY QUITE RECENTLY--"
YOWIE....!?
I--I HEARD IT, MY SISTER--CRYING FROM THE STREET BELOW!
IT SOUNDED LIKE--
LOOK!
IT--IT CAN'T BE--!
"IF I WERE A MORTAL MORTAL, MY KIND, I MIGHT ALMOST SYMPATHIZE WITH THE TWO WIDE-EYED SYSTERLINGS, AS THEY GAZED OUT THE WINDOW...
"--TO SEE THOSE THEY HAD CALLED MOTHER AND FATHER FOR SO LONG, LYING LIFELESS IN THE DIRT OF THE STREET.
"AND OVER THEIR BODIES, THE ARMORED FORM OF MALAVEX, YOUR CAPTAIN OF SLAUGHTER...
"...THE MAN WHO HAD PERSUADED CHIEF THE SLAYING OF THESE TRUE PARENTS SO MANY YEARS BEFORE."
LET THIS BE A LESSON TO ALL YOU PEASANTS!
CLAIM THE BABY WHEN THE KHAN'S CLAWS COME HOME--OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR FOLLY!
"NOW ADOPTED AND SPOILED AS THEY MUST HAVE BEEN, FOR AN ETERNAL MOMENT...
"...TORN BETWEEN WHAT THEY ARE, AND DESIRES TO DO...
"...AND THE HEIGHT OF ATROCITY FROM THEIR POWER FAILING TO KEEP HISTORY, AND GIVE NO OFFENCE TO THE KHAN OR HIS KIN."

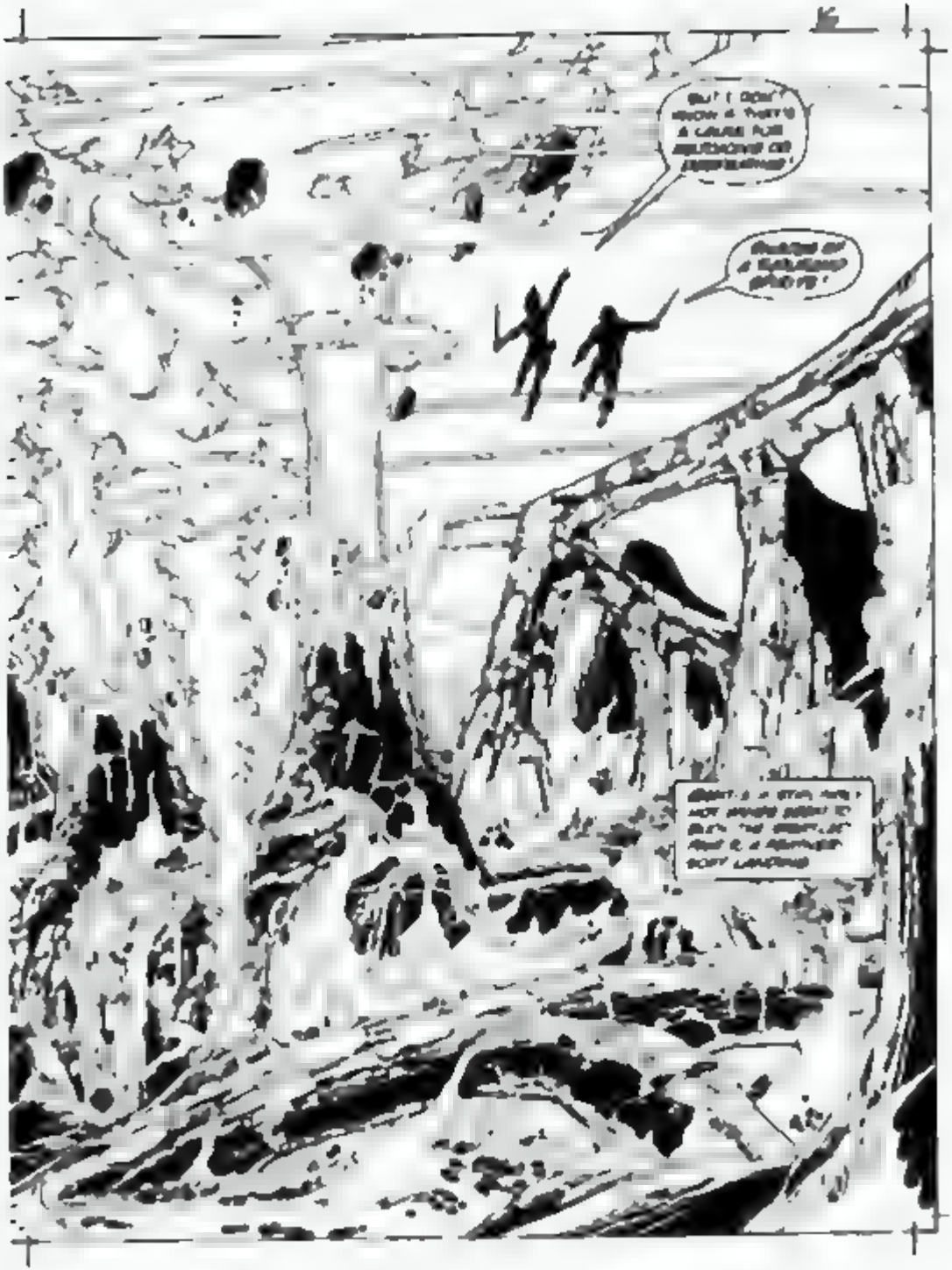
"...BUT NEVER SHRINKS THE FOUR DEAD FIGURES, AS IF HOPING TO BREATH PRECIOUS LIFE BACK INTO THEM.
"AND SO IT MIGHT HAVE REMAINED, HAD MALIKIA FORTUNATO NOT GOOD SENSE TO KEEP HER OWN MOUTH SHUT."
OH, FATHER... FATHER...
MOTHER...
"BUT OF COURSE HE DID NOT."
YOU FIND? WE SLAY THESE CARCASSES ARE BURNED AT ONCE...
FOR, I'LL BE RIDING BACK THROUGH HERE IN A LITTLE WHILE...
...AND I WOULDN'T WANT MY VALUABLE NEW STEED TO STUMBLE OVER SUCH FEARSOME CARRION!

WHAT IN THE NAME OF ALL THE GODS—?
WOK!
WHO THREW THAT STONE?! SPEAK!
DON'T TRY TO ANGER ME OR I'LL BURN DOWN THE WHOLE CITY, TILL I FIND—
I THREW IT, YOU LAPDOG TO A MURDEROUS TYRANT!
NO! IT WAS I!
SERRA—NO! YOU'LL JUST GET YOURSELF KILLED—LIKE THEY WERE!
DO YOU THINK I CARE—WHILE THE MAN WHO SLEW GARTH AND FELICIA LIVES?
IF IT'S DEATH YOU SEEK, WHELP—THEN DEATH SHALL YOU BOTH HAVE!
"CONSIDER THE NEXT, MY KING! IF NOT FOR THIS FITTY INCIDENT, THE DARKSEED THING MIGHT HAVE LIVED ALL THESE LIVES, WITHOUT SPREADING A BLIGHT OF VENGEANCE.
"BUT NOW, WITH A HASTY BLOWING OF HIS SHRILL WHISTLE—

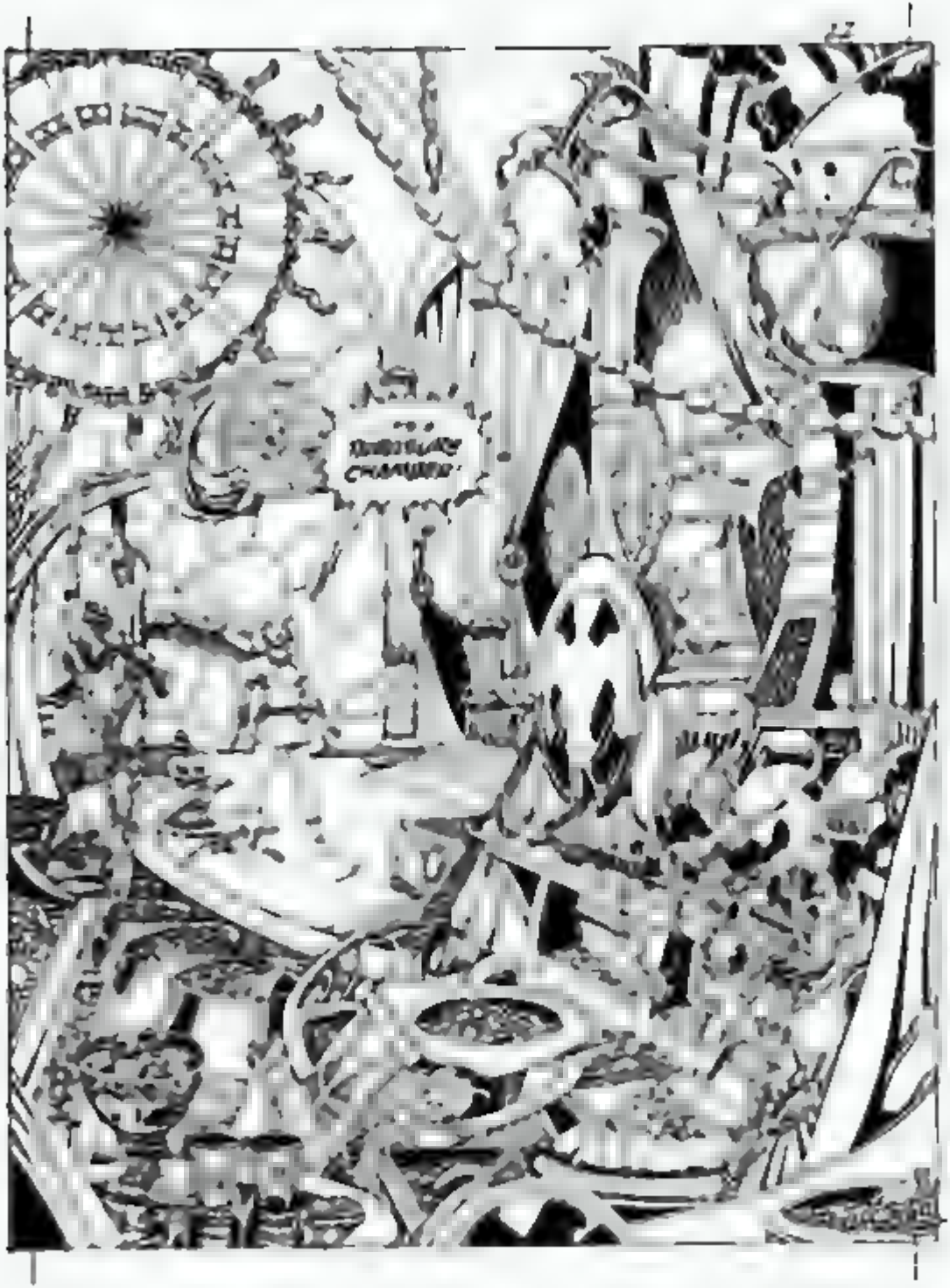


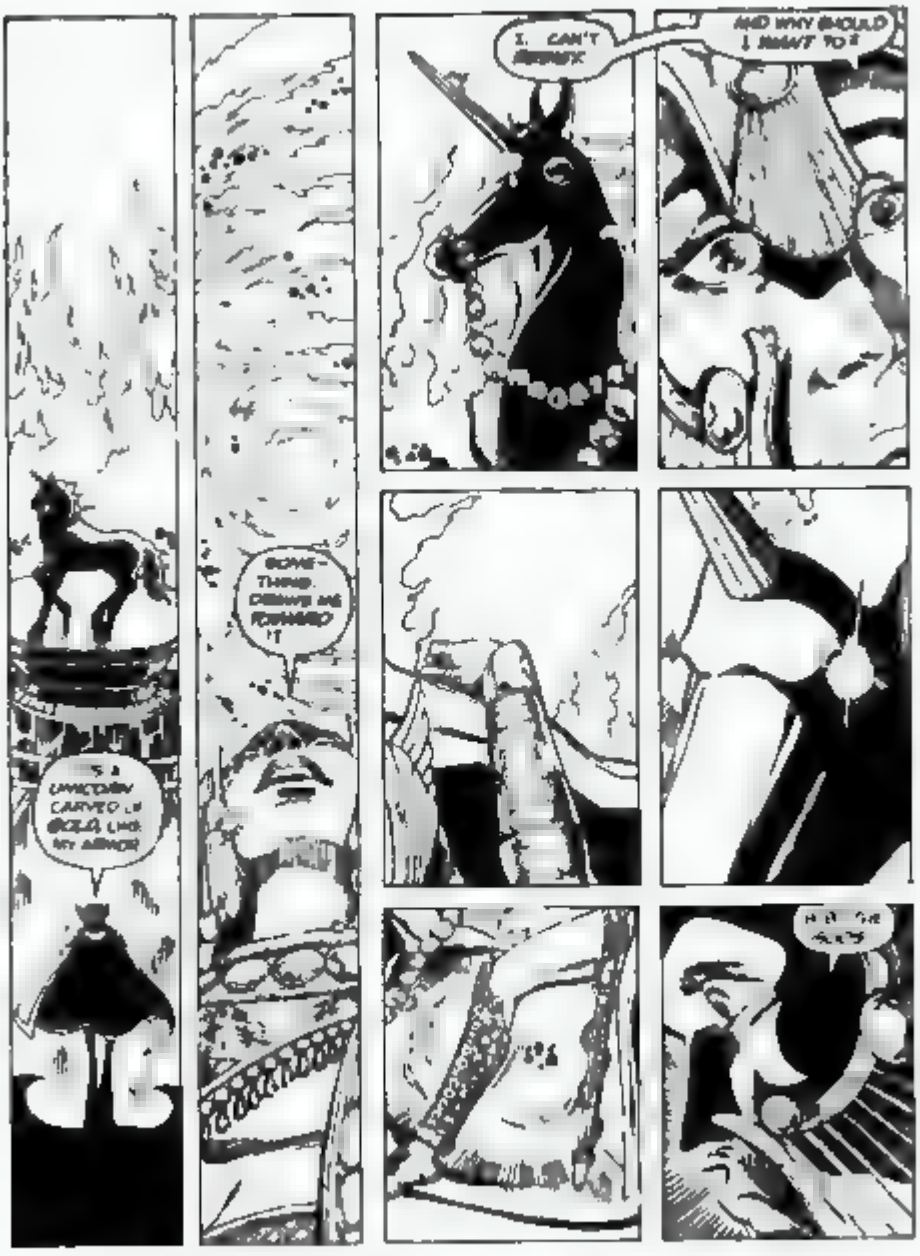






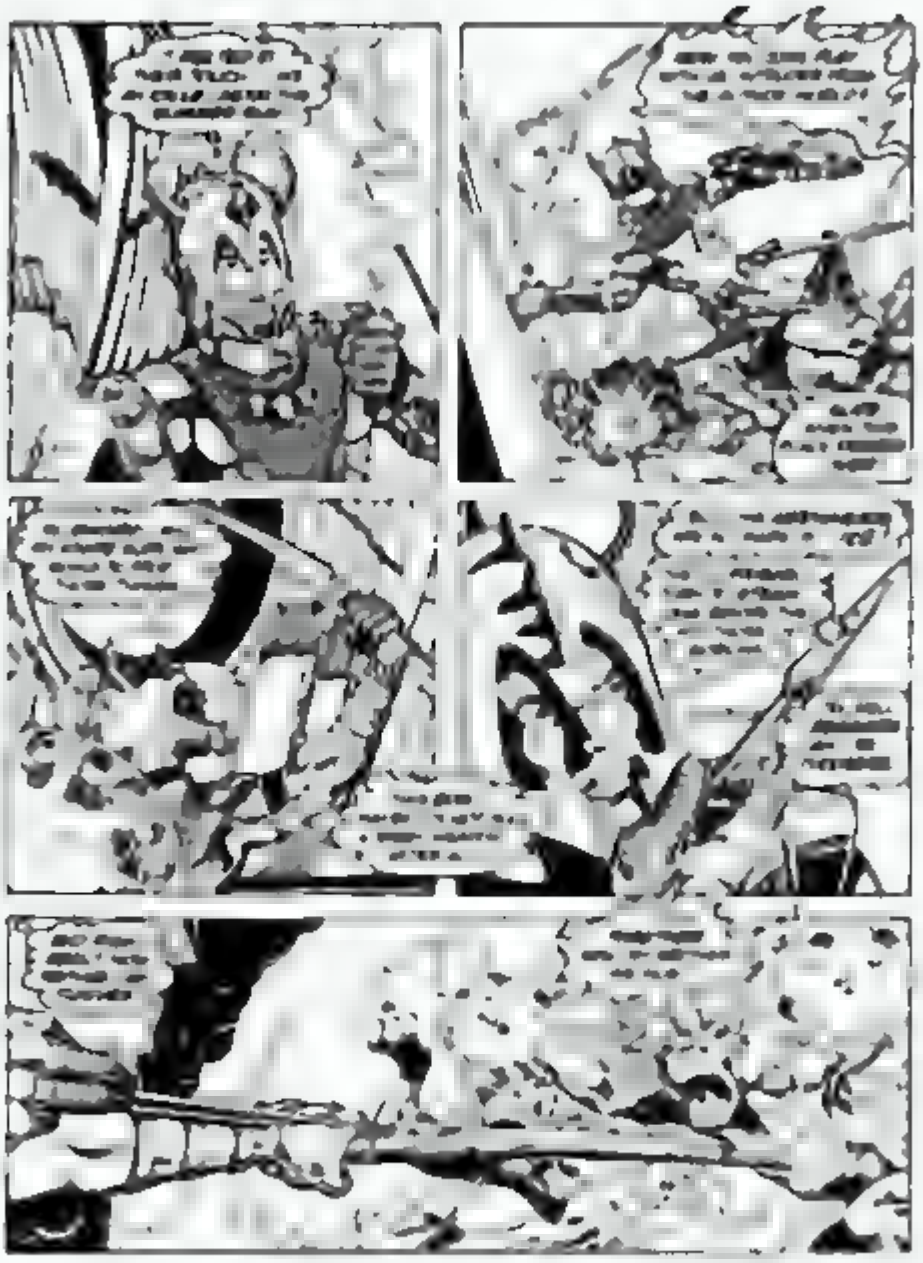
ONCE AND ONCE ONLY IN EACH OF THE FOUR WORLDS OF THE ELEMENTS CAN YOU CALL UPON US, LAD
THIS IS THAT TIME SPEAK
C-CAN YOU TAKE ME TO THE SWORD-- OR TO TARGON?
THAT IS A WAY YOU MUST FIND FOR YOURSELF, ALAD.
THEN SHOW ME SOMETHING COOL TO QUENCH MY THIRST, I BEG OF YOU BEFORE I PERISH!
AH, NOW AT LEAST YOU HAVE ASKED THE PROPER QUESTION. WHICH ALONE IS HALF THE STRUGGLE TO FINDING THE ANSWER
I SHALL SHOW YOU WHAT YOU SEEK, LORD...
--SEE AND DO VERY MUCH MORE--
--IN THE CHALICE OF LIGHT!
IT-IT'S TRULY A THING OF BEAUTY, MENTOR
BUT WHERE IS IT? HOW CAN I REACH IT AND QUENCH MY THIRST SO I CAN STAY ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND TARGON AND THE SWORD?

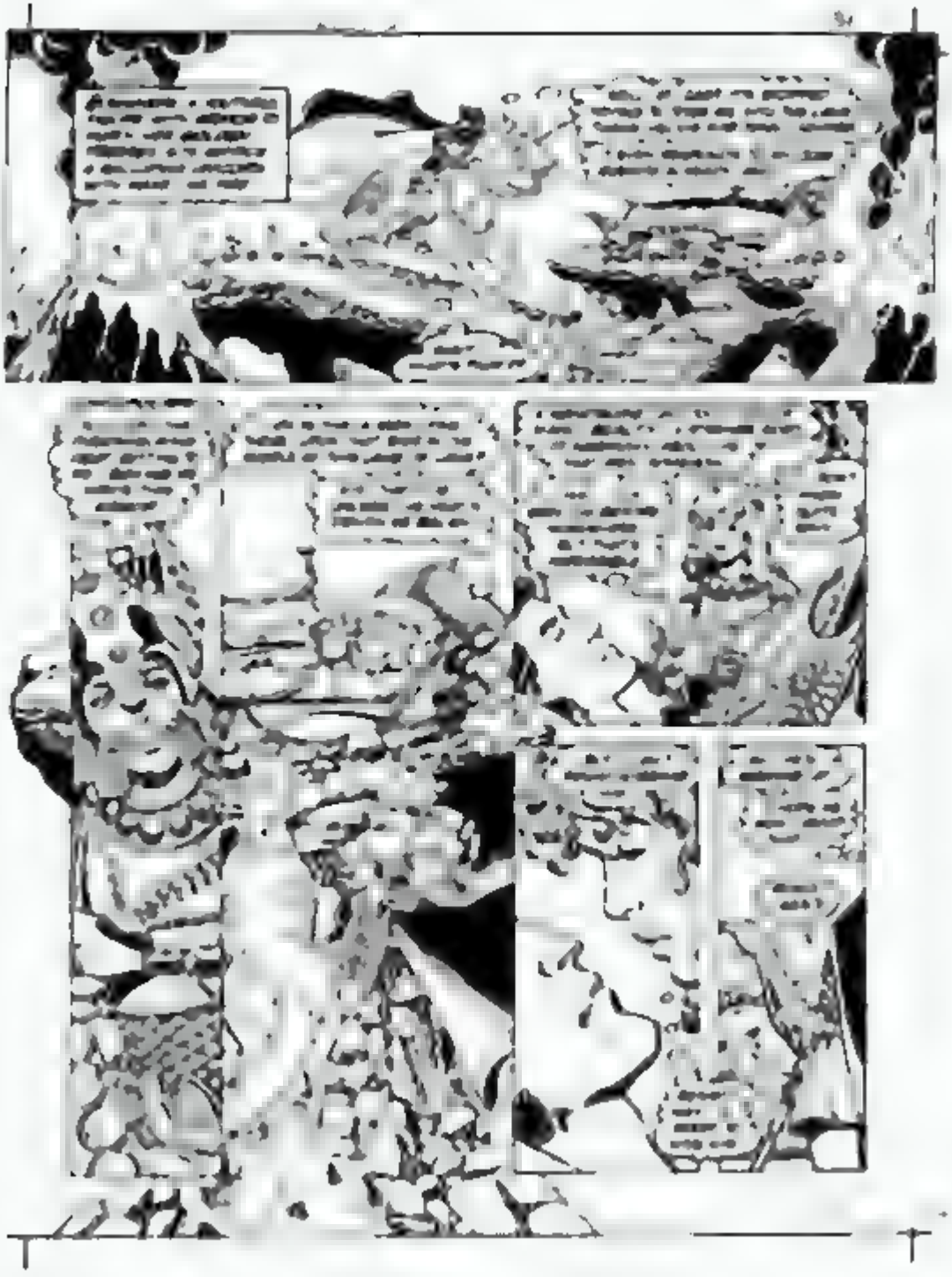


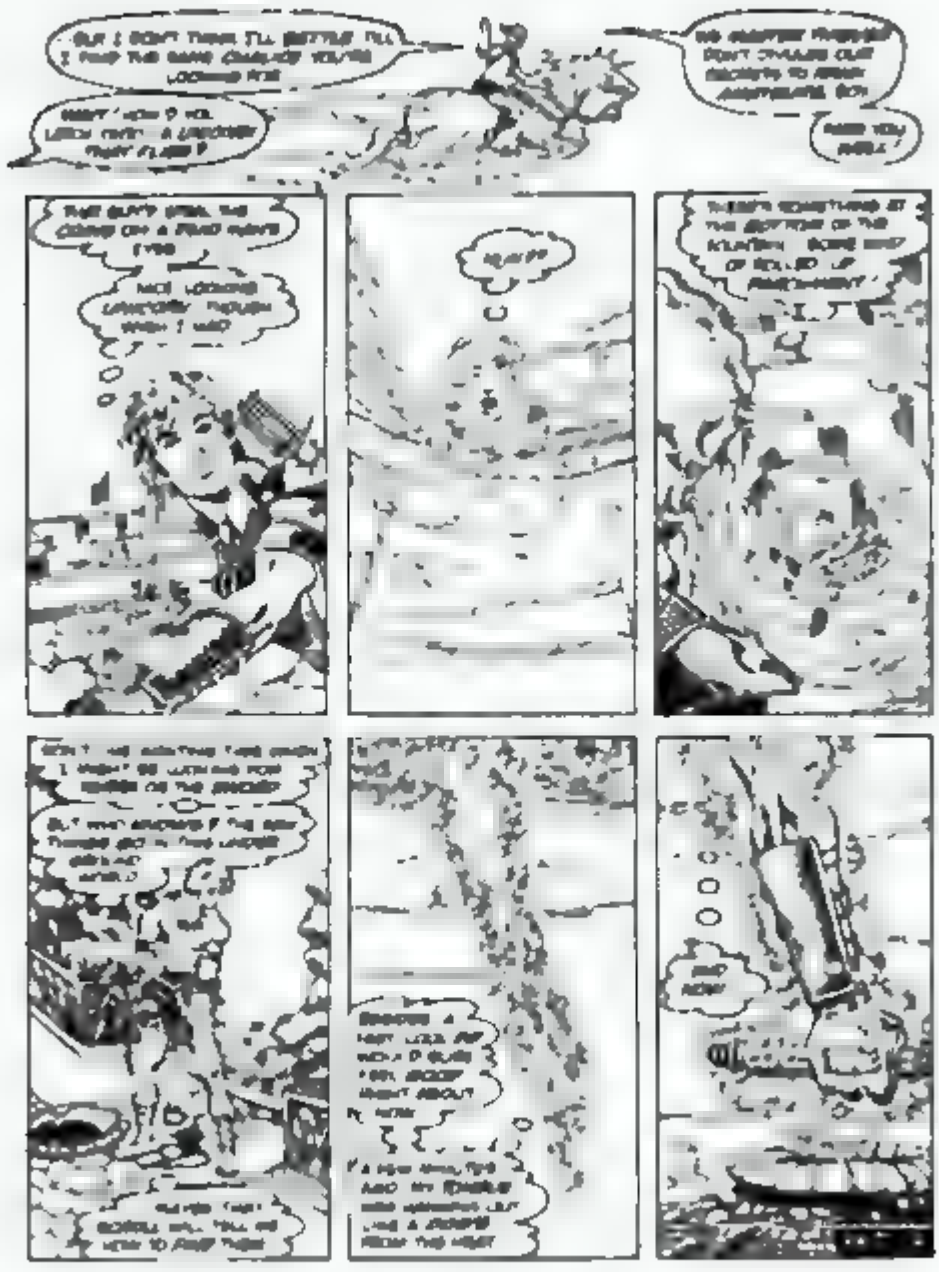

I... CAN'T
AND WHY SHOULD
I WANT TO?
SOME-
THING
DRAWS ME
FORWARD
IT
IS A
UNICORN
CARVED IN
GOLD, LIKE
MY ARMOR!

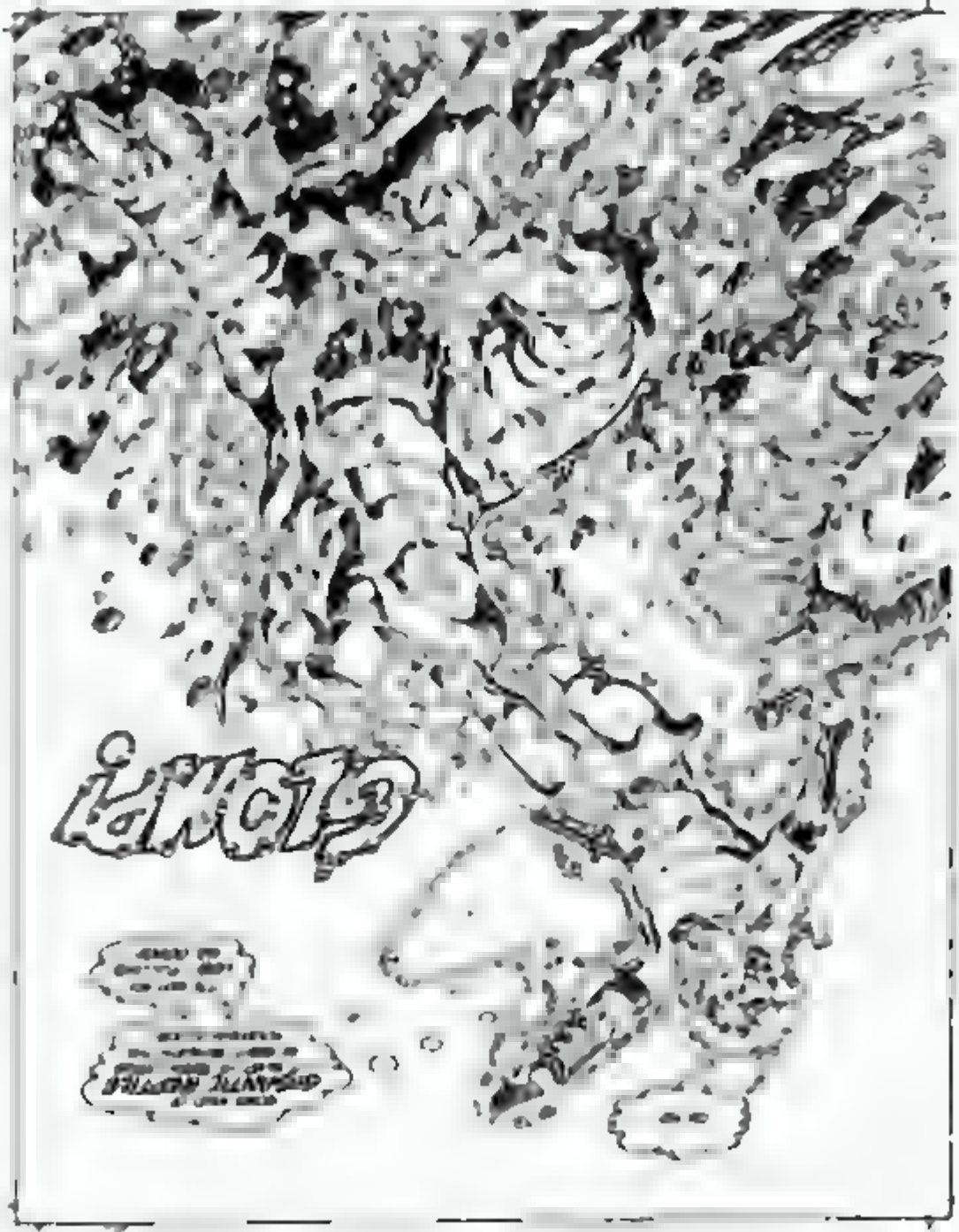
IT'S ALIVE!!

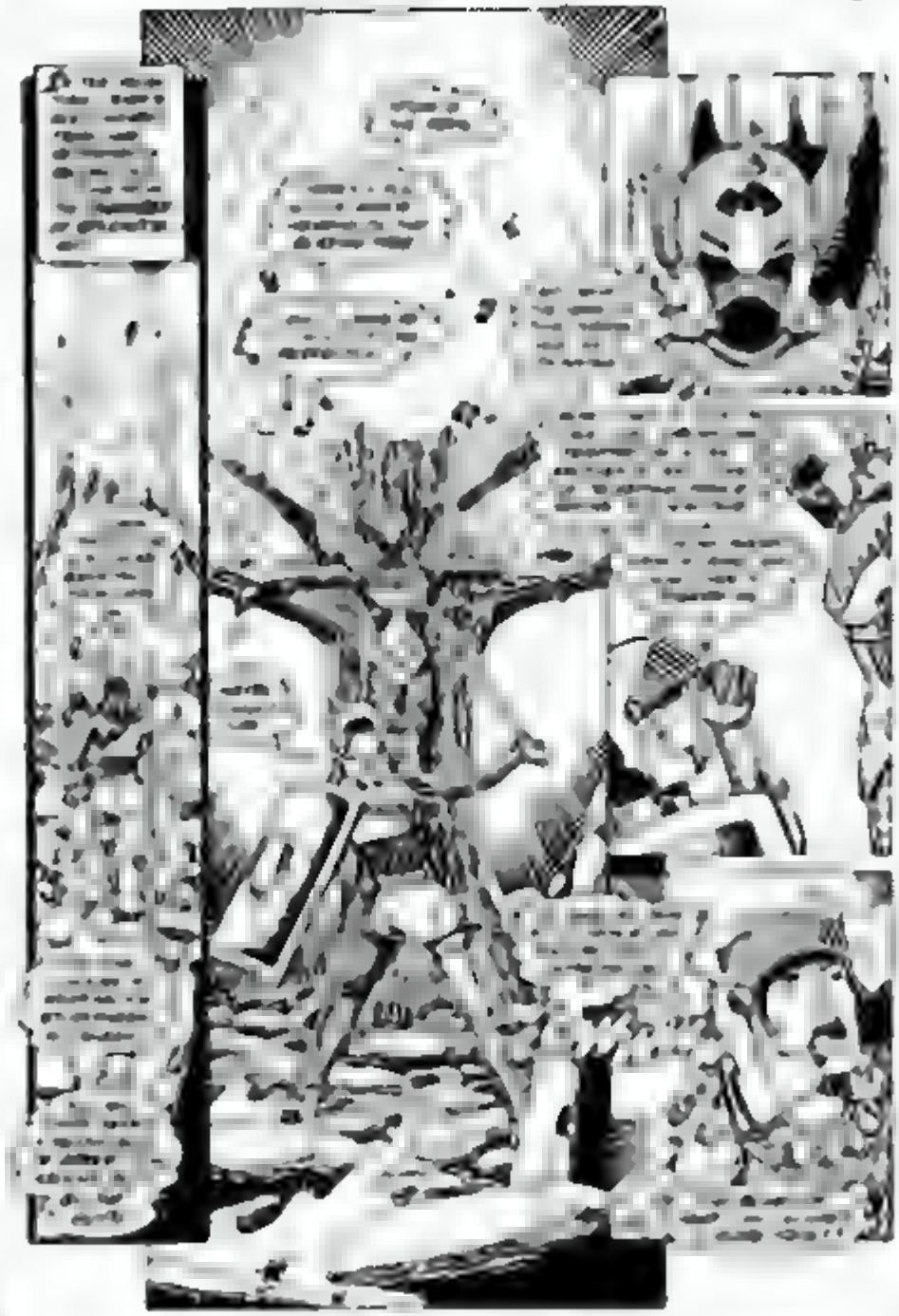
MEANWHILE, UPON THE WORDS OF WARRIOR AS THE ACCUMULATION OF HIS ACTIONS, TOMMY HAWKES HAS WARPED INTO YET ANOTHER OF THE STRANGE CIRCULAR CHAMBERS WHICH SEEM TO POT THE CRIMSON FACE OF FIREWORLD...
WARLOCKS AND WIZARDS! I CAME SEEKING A CHALICE TO DRINK FROM PERHAPS REPLENISH FROM THE NUMBING HEAT--
--AND I'VE FOUND A WEIRDLAND ALTAR INSTEAD!
WELL, WHAT AS WELL SEARCH IT BEFORE I GET ON
BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE ANOTHER ALTAR IT COULD BE IN THIS DEVILISH PLACE





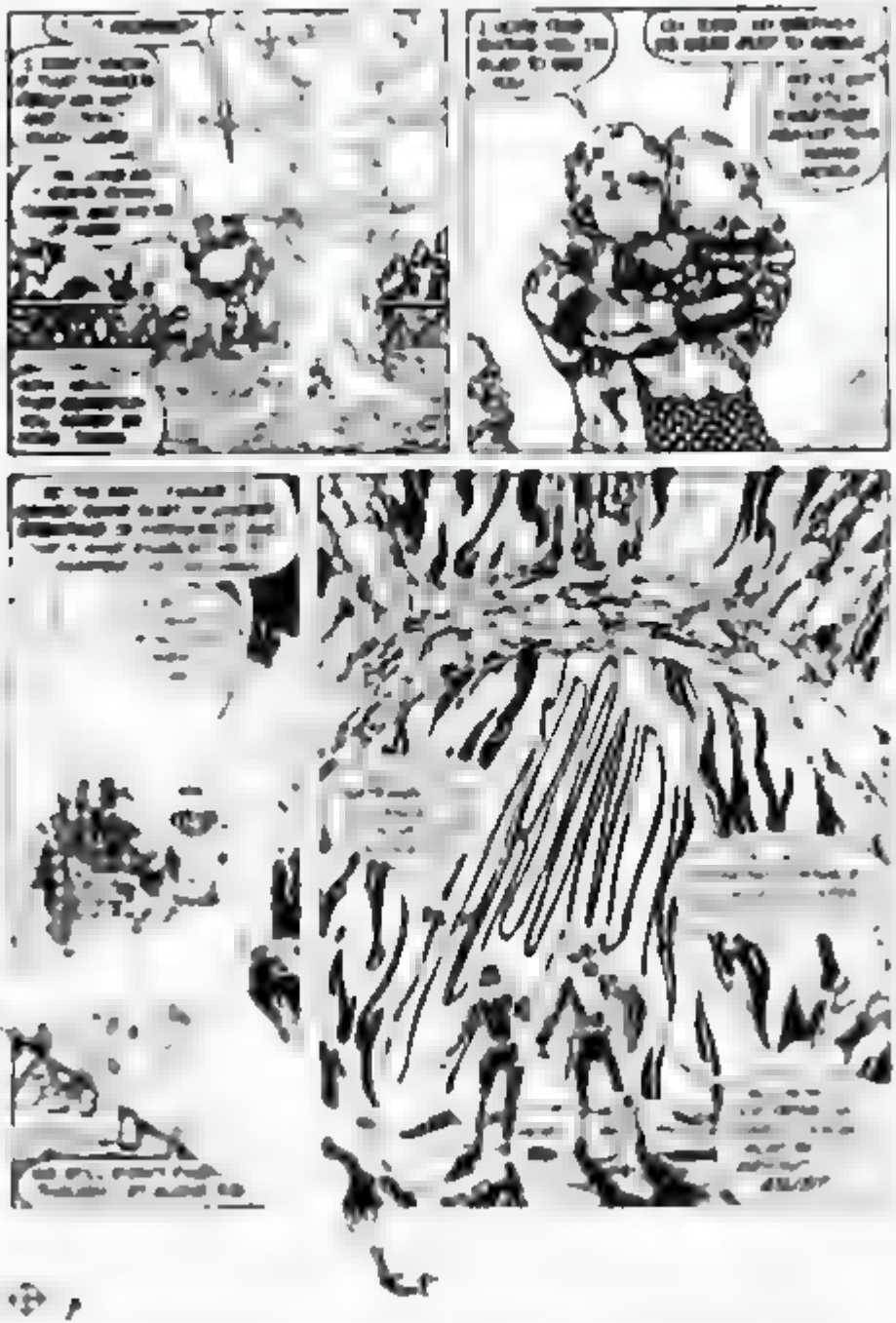

BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL BOTHER TILL I FIND THE GANG CHARLIE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR
WHAT? HOW D'YOU LEECH OUT A LOBSTER FROM A LAKE?
NO HUNTER PHOENIX! DON'T CHANGE OUR SECRETS TO SUIT ANYBODY, BOY.
HAVE YOU HEARD?
THERE'S SOMETHING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE KLAMATH. SOME KIND OF SCALED UP PREHISTORIC
HUH??
THAT GUY'S STILL THE CRAZIEST ON A ROAD THAT'S FULL
NICE LOOKING LOBSTER THERE. WISH I HAD
NOW
BUT WHAT KIND OF THING COULD
BUT WHAT ANCHORS IF THE NEW THINGS GOT IN THE LOCKER
SCROLL WILL TELL ME HOW TO FIND THEM





GRONK

GRAARR
SSSSSS
FROOSH!



SOMEHOW, THE WATER I SWALLOWED BACK AT THAT WEIRD FOUNTAIN GAVE ME THE WISDOM TO--
HUH??
DON'T TELL ME--LET ME GUESS--!
THE CHALICE OF LIGHT!
JUST THINK, TOMAR--ONCE WE DRINK FROM IT, WE WON'T FEEL THE HEAT ANY MORE--WE WON'T FEEL ANY THIRST!
WE'LL HAVE CONQUERED FIREWORLD, JUST AS WE DID EARTHWORLD--
--AND BECOME THE WARRIORS OUR MENTORS TOLD US WE COULD BE!

IT'LL DRINK TO THAT--A NICE LONG GULP OF WATER!
YES, AND ALL WITHOUT SLAUGHTERING ANYBODY TO GET TO IT, TOO!
AS A MATTER OF FACT--SO WILL I!
HUH? WHAT--?
KRASH
THE CHALICE--IT SHATTERED INTO A MILLION PIECES!
THEN I'M BETTING--IT DOESN'T THE REAL CHALICE OF LIGHT AT ALL!
AH, BUT YOU ARE A PERCEPTIVE WENCH, AREN'T YOU?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, LOVE!
AYE, LAD AND LASS--HERE'S HUS, AND DRINKS A JOLLY TOAST TO THE BOTH OF YOU!
FACT IS, I WAS QUITE THIRSTY, AND SINCE THIS TRUE CHALICE NEVER GETS EMPTY--
--I'M TOO WATTER-LOGGED EVEN TO RUN FROM YOU!
GIVE US THAT CHALICE, THIEF!
BUT OF COURSE! WHY NOT? I'VE DRUNK MY FILL... AND LEARNED ALL THAT'S TO BE LEARNED FROM IT.
THAT IS WHAT HE MEANS, YOUR LOOK!
THERE--ON THE BOTTOM OF THE CHALICE--
THE MARK OF--A CROWN!

THAT IT BE, MY HIGHTIDE! A CROWN THAT WAITS FOR ME-- IN THE THIRD WORLD WHERE HIDES THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY!
HE'S GETTING AWAY-- ON THAT WEIRD UNICORN!
LET HIM.
AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT THE CHALICE, RIGHT?
AND IF WHAT HAPPENED IN EARTHWORLD WAS ANY CLUE, IT SHOULD BE THE KEY TO OUR NEXT DESTINATION.
I GUESS SO... BUT I DON'T TRUST THAT HERMAPHRODITE!
WHY SHOULD YOU? HE'S A THIEF, JUST LIKE US!
NOT LIKE US! WE'VE MADE AMENDS NOW, REMEMBER?
AND WE WANT THE SWORD TO DEFEAT TYRANNUS, NOT JUST BECAUSE IT'S VALUABLE! WE--
KARMA! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING-- TO THE CHALICE!
IT'S GETTING BIGGER-- RIGHT BE-FORE OUR EYES!
HUH? WHERE'D ALL THIS WATER--
--COME--
--FROM?

HMM! NOW I UNDERSTAND! WE'RE INSIDE THE CHALICE!
THE CHALICE ITSELF--WAS THE GATEWAY TO THE THIRD WORLD!
BUT THE INSIDE OF THE CHALICE--THEY'RE FALLING!--AND THERE'S NO LAND ANYWHERE IN SIGHT!
WHERE IS THIS THIRD WORLD--WITH ITS CROWN, AND THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY?
WHERE?!!
DON'T YOU SEE, BROTHER? IF THE FIRST WORLD WAS INSIDE THE EARTH--AND THE SECOND WAS RINGED IN FIRE--
--THEN THIS WORLD IS ALL WATER!
OF COURSE! A WORLD FOR EACH OF THE PRIMAL ELEMENTS!
AND IF WE CAN'T GO BACK UP--OR EVEN SIDEWAYS--
RIGHT! THEN THE ONLY WAY TO GO IS--
--DOWN!
WELL, KONJURO?...
YOU TOLD ME THOSE WARLIPS WOULD PERISH IN FIREWORLD--BUT YOU WERE WRONG! THEY LIVE!
NOT FOR LONG, MILORD KING. MY MAGIC WILL FOLLOW THEM THROUGH ALL FOUR WORLDS, IF NEED BE--
--TILL THEY MENACE OUR CAUSE NO MORE!
I ASSURE YOU, THE GOLD-TRIMMED YOUNG THIEVES NAMED TOOR AND TARRA SHALL FIND THEIR FINAL DOOM IN...
WATERWORLD!
IN SWORDQUEST BOOK 3 AVAILABLE SOON!

DID YOU MISS EARTHWORLD? HUSTLE DOWN TODAY TO YOUR FAVORITE ATARI CARTRIDGE DEALER AND GET SWORDQUEST #1: EARTHWORLD.